



Minkégises / August 2016

Top Photo: Grand Entry at the 2016 CPN Family Reunion Festival. Photo provided by Kevin Pyle.

Q&A with Naval Academy graduate Kennedye



The *Hownikan* spoke with one of three CPN members who graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy this spring.

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Festival 2016 photos



More than 3,000 attendees descended on the powwow grounds at CPN for the annual Family Festival.

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A growing family at the CPN eagle aviary

The CPN Eagle Aviary has a new resident: a tawny eagle chick, which is normally found in African countries. After two bald eagles – Kyla and Charlie – were unsuccessful in hatching eggs of their own, aviary staff partnered with another Oklahoma aviary to make them parents. This is the first time on record that bald eagles have raised a tawny eagle chick.

Like all of the birds at the aviary, Kyla has a unique story. She came to the aviary in 2012 from Kyla, Montana, after spending most of the first two years of her life improperly housed. Two months after the aviary opened in 2012, staff got a call from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services after law enforcement confiscated several eagles. When Kyla was found, she had been in a large kennel for an extended period of time. She had worn the feathers off of a portion of her wings and had calluses from turning around in the kennel. After she was injured as a fledgling, a wildlife rehabilitator began to work with Kyla in hopes that she'd someday be able to live on her own again, but she was unsuccessful.

“We weren’t provided with much of the bird’s history because of the situation, but Kyla had likely fallen out of her nest as a chick and had several unrepaired breaks in her left wing,” Aviary Manager Jennifer Randell said. “After six months, a rehabilitator must make the decision whether to put an eagle down if it cannot be fully rehabilitated or find placement in a long term care facility. The rehabber, in this case, probably found it too difficult to put the eagle down. She had good intentions by sparing the eagle, but was in a very tough



The tawny eagle is learning how to fly and fend for itself after three months.

situation because her permits had lapsed and she no longer had a place to adequately house the eagles.”

“On the trip back, I had to sit in front of the kennel door with her to keep her from becoming overly stressed because if I got out of her sight you could see her becoming nervous. When we got her into the enclosure in the aviary, she wouldn’t get out of the cage because she had been living in one for quite some time. Usually when we open pet kennels for birds, they run or fly out immediately, but not Kyla. I had to get on my hands and knees to coax her out and I was overwhelmed with emotion because of the state she was in,” Randell said.

The birds at the aviary get a whole food diet, which means they get fur, feathers and bones like they would in the wild, but for the first two months, staff had to dice Kyla’s food into small portions.

“When we attempted to feed her, she couldn’t eat whole food,” Randell said. “She almost choked at first.”

For the first month, she stayed in a five by five foot square within the new enclosure.

“One day, the misters came on and she could feel the water in the breeze and she started to paddle her wings. Dancing around in circles, she happened to put her foot in the running water in the enclosure,” said Randell. “It’s possible that Kyla had never been in water before, especially running water like a stream, because she fell out of her nest when she was so young. When she got into the stream for the first time, she ran up and down like a child splashing in the pool. We cried again.”

After this, it was clear her spirit was no longer broken. Her Potawatomi name, Kche-Gizhek, means Big Sky. She was given that name as a reminder of where she comes from but the name fits much more than that, said Randell. Out of the five birds in the enclosure, she became the dominant figure and mother hen. She has a huge personality.

Kyla was a young bald eagle – or sub-adult – when she arrived, and is now the largest eagle, weighing in at 14 pounds. The smallest male at the aviary, Charlie, who weighs about six pounds, took to Kyla almost immediately and followed her around the enclosure.

“Kyla, being a young eagle, didn’t know why he was bothering her. She even pulled one of his tail feathers out. Last year, Kyla’s head turned white, which is a sign of maturity that usually happens around age five, and she finally understood why Charlie was following her around. They built a nest together and Kyla laid eggs, but they were unfertilized.”

Randell noted that eagles living in captivity don’t normally nest build or lay eggs, so it is encouraging to know that they feel comfortable enough in the aviary’s environment to do this.

This year, the pair laid eggs again. Although one broke, another seemed like it could be viable. The staff at the aviary spoke to U.S. Fish and Wildlife about getting permits to allow these birds to breed in captivity.

Randell told the *Hownikan* that the pair were great parents and incubated the eggs perfectly. In 35 days, the amount of time a bald eagle egg

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The ten day old tawny eagle.

PLP participants get insight into tribal life

By August 1, the Potawatomi Leadership Program students will be packing their bags and heading back to their hometowns after a six-week internship that taught them the ins and outs of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. The award-winning program brings a group of 10 young tribal members from around the country to Shawnee, Oklahoma to learn about the government, culture, and economic development of CPN.

This year the participants came from North Carolina, Virginia, Oregon, Kansas, Arizona, Vermont, California and Oklahoma. The PLP arrived on June 17 and dove right into tours, introductions and the Family Reunion Festival.

At its core, the PLP strives to give young tribal members an accurate perception of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation as a whole and cultivate talent from within to ensure that younger generations are prepared for a role in the future governance of their tribe.

The PLP has a sponsor each year who has been through the program in the past. Isaac Morris – a 2014 PLP participant – filled this role for a second year. His duties included creating a schedule for the PLP, taking them to all of their activities and living in the Sharp House with the group. He explained that these 10 students were unified, engaged and asked an abundance of questions.

“They are great leaders. I think they will be sitting in those legislator chairs in the near future and bringing about change in their communities back home,” Morris said.

His advice to incoming participants was to keep an open mind and be ready to learn, urging them that the experience is what they make it. Even though the typical weekday for the students is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., meeting with different departments at CPN, the students also had time to rest and explore the area.

“There was always so much laughter and smiling in the [Sharp] house,” Morris said. “They had a great time!”

Margaret Zientek worked as the PLP house mom during the summer. She moved into the Sharp House, which boasts two flat screen TVs, a pool table and an outdoor pool, and acts as a listening ear, protector and regalia maker. She said she believes that what the students learn as they complete the program is much more than the teachings and events. They build lifelong friendships and share responsibilities while living together.

The 10 participants are responsible for all of the cleaning, cooking, laundry and maintenance of the house. Each must share a room and bathroom with at least one other person. This teaches them to adjust to other people’s preferences and schedules while being accommodating and sensitive to others.

CPN provides each participant with a piece of regalia, which Zientek sews for them. Men receive a ribbon shirt and women get a shawl and one other item – their choice of a skirt or blouse. There is a regalia question-



PLP House Mother Margaret Zientek dances with the PLP at the 2016 Family Reunion Festival.

naire in the PLP application and Zientek expressed that she learns a lot about the students as she builds their regalia.

“It amazes me how every year the regalia comes together and each piece matches its owner perfectly,” Zientek said.

She also explains that this year’s group has bonded very well. Their age differences span only eight months, but their interests and backgrounds are very broad.

Thomas Brunt – a Tescier family member – is studying environmental science at the University of Pittsburgh and hopes to work for CPN in the future.

“During this experience I expected to make good friends, learn a lot and hopefully secure an internship,” Brunt said. “I really enjoyed going around to all of the departments, especially the environmental department.”

Matthew Clift, who is a member of both the Ogee and Weld families, had the shortest distance to travel to experience the PLP. His hometown is Cushing, Oklahoma, but he is currently studying history education at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. Clift’s favorite experience from the PLP was the dancing at Family Reunion Festival.

“I wanted to attend the PLP because I wanted to learn more about my tribe and be a part of it,” Clift said. “I hope to make lifelong connections and be influential for my tribe.”

Anderson family member Katherine Smith attends Moorpark College and hopes to become a veterinarian or exotic animal trainer in the future. Following in the footsteps of her brother Nick from Simi Valley, California, Smith wanted to gain appreciation for the tribe that her older brother learned from the program.

“I really enjoyed the eagle aviary; the eagles are amazing and the women who work there are really kind and know so much,” Smith said. “All of the spiritual aspects of the tribe have been great to learn too.”

Alyssa Frey, who has roots in the Denton and Boursaw families, hails from Manhattan, Kansas and attends Kansas State University. Frey is studying social work, theatre and leadership and hopes to become a drama therapist. She sees the PLP as a good networking opportunity to learn about culture and who she is.

“I wanted to come to the PLP because before I got here I didn’t know anything about my Potawatomi culture and heritage. It’s been amazing to learn about it and meet all these cool people,” Frey said. “My favorite part has been learning about the history of our tribe and the language.”

Boursaw family member Sage Hanson is studying supply chain management and sustainability at Arizona State University. His future plans are to assist companies to purchase supplies that are less harmful to the environment. Hanson expected to gain leadership skills and connections with the people in the program with him during his summer in Shawnee.

“I chose to attend the PLP because I was looking for a way to gain leadership experience as well as get in touch with my heritage,” Hanson said. “My favorite part has been the people; I think I’ll be able to keep in contact with a lot of them afterwards.”

Oregon State University business student Aden Eilers is a member of the Anderson family. He made the furthest trip to the PLP from Lake Oswego, Oregon. Eilers sees the PLP as a good opportunity that has impacted his future more than other summer internships or jobs could.

“We went to the police station and met all of the officers,” Eilers said after being asked what his favorite part of the experience has been. “We also met with Iron Horse Industrial Group; I never knew that the tribe did any international business so that was eye-opening.”

Bergeron family member Randy Bazhaw studies civil engineering at North Carolina State University. After his grandfather Ralph introduced him to the PLP, Bazhaw saw that it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn about his culture and heri-

tage. He describes the friendships he has built with the other participants as a family.

“I have enjoyed the cultural teaching and learning the language because it makes me feel like I’m connected to my heritage,” Bazhaw said. “I expect to get a deeper understanding of who I am and what it means for me to be Native American. I also want to learn how I can help the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in the future.”

Aaron Stevenson – a Yott family member – is from Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He studies computer engineering at Oklahoma State University and his favorite part of the experience was learning about the Iron Horse Industrial Park.

“I wanted to attend the PLP because I wanted to learn more about the history and culture of the Potawatomi,” Stevenson said. “I wanted to gain an increased appreciation of the tribe as a whole.”

Frigon family member Susannah Howard is from North Thetford, Vermont. She attends Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she majors in geosciences, landscape studies and Native American studies. Howard hopes to work for CPN one day and used this experience to get more familiar with the opportunities available.

“My favorite experience has been making connections with the legislators, directors and fellow PLPs,” Howard said. “I hope to find out how being a Native American in the 21st Century will impact my life.”

Zoe Gustason, who is a Rhodd family descendant, is studying psychology at Sierra Vista Community College and hopes to work with children who have endured traumatic events. She describes her experience living with the PLPs in the Sharp House as a family.

“I wanted to attend the PLP because even though I am Native American, I didn’t know much about my heritage,” said Gustason. “I hope to use what I have learned to share with others when I go back home.”

To learn more about the PLP, please visit plp.potawatomi.org.

Entrepreneur, Dust Bowl rancher and WWII veteran George Hamilton turns 100

For those who have been at the tribe's annual Family Reunion Festival the last three years, the tradition of honoring the general council meeting's eldest attendee has been reserved for one tribal member in particular. At the time of writing, 99 year old George Hamilton had just received his third straight honor from Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett for his attendance at the 2016 general council. While many may know Hamilton from these brief instances, the story of this Citizen Potawatomi's long life provides a fascinating window into the 20th century.

On July 15, 1916, Hamilton was born on a farm west of the Oklahoma City Stockyards, in an area that today is part of the city's suburban sprawl.

"It was in the country at the time, I guess it'd be on the east side of Grand Boulevard and north of Southwest 15th Street," recalled Hamilton.

Like many in that era, Hamilton split time between work on the farm and classes at Bishop John Carroll School, Central High School and Classen High School. However, a stipulation in the latter's graduation requirements kept Hamilton from getting a high school diploma.

"It got to the end of the year, and I had the credits to qualify to graduate, but they required you be in school year round. I had bought a feed store when I was 16 and worked there, so I never did graduate."



Captain George Hamilton

Hamilton's father and uncle had originally purchased a building in Oklahoma City's Packing Town District that would house the feed store for their business as horse traders. Their interest in that side of the business left the feed store unattended. Hamilton, with his father as a co-signer, took a \$300 loan out and opened for business. As a 16-year-old, he would work and live in the feed store's 6x6 foot office and attend school, recalling that he rode the city's long since-abandoned street car system so he could attend classes.

As Hamilton tells it, his venture "turned out alright."

"It was sparsely populated out south of the stockyards at the time," he recalled. "People had milk cows and chickens all out in there. That's what

my business was, just small time sales."

His lucid recollection of the landscape of 1920s and 1930s Oklahoma City provide an intriguing glimpse into the city's first century, especially for those who only know the metropolitan area as it is now. In what today are sections of suburban sprawl and paved four lane streets, Hamilton can tell you the paths and section lines that he and his family used to drive cattle on.

Later, Hamilton sought his fortunes in the cattle and ranching industry in the wake of the Dust Bowl. For decades, the short grass prairies of western Oklahoma had produced bountiful harvests of wheat and other agricultural products. Yet severe drought in the 1920s combined with the economic collapse of the Great Depression drove many farmers off their land in what had once been known as the Great American Desert.

Hamilton and his brother partnered with a financier in Woodward County, Oklahoma to reclaim some of these abandoned properties and raise cattle.

"We scrounged up the old fence lines and got some land fenced, and our partner financed 300 steers for us," he said.

Though the land's traditional short grasses were unsuitable for farming operations that required annual tilling, it was perfect grazing country for cattle operations.

"That country should have never been plowed," stated Hamilton. "Some of the old fields were still blowing (away), but a lot of them had grassed over somewhat. Our partner furnished the cattle, and we furnished the grass, and we split the profits. We'd just gotten started on that when Pearl Harbor happened."

The war

Hamilton was one of the first to volunteer in the aftermath of the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941, despite being qualified for an agricultural draft exemption.

"I volunteered for it, I wanted to go," said Hamilton.

Following a battery of interviews and examinations, he was sent to Uvalde, Texas as a member of the cadet flying corps. Upon his completion of the primary training school, he had training stints at Randolph Air Force Base – then part of the U.S. Army Air Corps – in Mission, Texas. He completed his domestic training in Florida at fighter school before being deployed to the North African theater.

Hamilton concedes he'd never flown before he joined the service, but as he said with a grin, "I wanted a fighter plane."

He attributes his interest partly to the publicity of units like the First American Volunteer Group, nicknamed



Representative David Barrett gives George Hamilton his Potawatomi name, meaning 'Winged Warrior.'

"The Flying Tigers," comprised of American pilots serving in the Chinese Air Force before the U.S.' entrance into the war.

Hamilton flew a P-40 fighter plane in North Africa, before moving on to the P-47, an upgrade in military technology that he referred to as "a whole new world."

As a member of the 317th and later the 325th fighter groups, nicknamed "Checkertail Clan" for their distinctive look, he took part in combat missions supporting the invasion of Sicily, including bombing runs on German air bases on the island of Sardinia. Once in the P-47s, his unit's mission almost centrally focused on escorting heavy bombers.

"When they finally got enough real estate in Italy to build airfields, we went there and started really flying with the big boys," he said. "I finished my tour of 54 missions and came home, but I'd signed up to go back before I left, like a group out of our squadron."

Upon his return to the European theater, Hamilton flew more combat and escort missions before being promoted to an operational officer posting. In that role, he was responsible for the planning and flying of missions into Nazi controlled air space, a position he says he found extremely interesting due to his access to intelligence information. All told, Hamilton served the duration of the war.

"I was over there when it ended. I wanted to be. It was with a great group of guys and was an adventure of a lifetime that I thought would never happen again," Hamilton said. "Of course that turned out wrong."

Back in the U.S., Hamilton moved to Dallas on the advice of an aunt who helped him get started in the real estate business before returning to Woodward County to work the ranch.

Coming home

Hamilton's Potawatomi lineage comes from his mother's side; he is a descendent of the Burnett family.

"We were aware that we had an Indian background, and my mother's mother was very traditional and still had some of the old beliefs and superstitions, so we knew that had Potawatomi blood."

Another drought in the 1950s left land across Oklahoma unattended again. Hamilton's ties to family in Pottawatomie County brought him closer to the CPN homelands as he bought up property for his agriculture operations. His background in ranching, combined with what he had learned in the real estate business with his aunt in Dallas, helped him succeed.

"There were cases of absentee owners due to people having left for California and Oregon, or multiple owners on land, with no one owning more than 160 acres. It was very interesting to deal with, but piece by piece I'd put the land together."

Speaking just a week before his 100th birthday, Hamilton said that in terms of thinking about his age, "there's no difference at all. They just come on, one day at a time."

Asked what advice he'd give his younger self, he referred to a principle that appears to have gotten him far in the past century.

"Just do what you say you'll do, and do your best whether you're working for yourself or for someone else. That's the weakness and cause of failure for a lot of people that get into business for themselves and don't push themselves like they should. For me, it almost never felt like work, because it's what I liked doing."

Q&A with Naval Academy graduate Jacque Kennedye

In May 2016, the *Hownikan* noted the spring graduations of two Citizen Potawatomi from the U.S. Naval Academy. While two graduates of one of the nation’s service academy is laudable, a third tribal member who walked with the class of 2016 went unmentioned. The staff of the *Hownikan* recently spoke with that third Naval Academy graduate, Jacque Kennedye, about her experience at Annapolis and plans for the future.

How did you end up at the U.S. Naval Academy?

“I initially became interested in the naval academy because of my father. He had been in the Navy and introduced me to the academy. I was very attracted to what it had to offer in terms of a full scholarship, a guaranteed job after graduation and a good education. But I fell in love with the school after attending summer seminar, a weeklong session at the academy going into my senior year of high school. I was blown away by the potential for leadership development, the emphasis on teamwork and discipline required to train to be a naval officer - to be a leader of sailors and marines.”

Looking back at your time there, what’s something that sticks out in your mind that you know now, or have experienced, that you didn’t think of when you began as a midshipman?

“Looking back, I don’t think I realized how invested I’d become in my future career. I kind of thought of the academy and my career in the Navy as something cool that I’d do in my life, but didn’t realize how big of a role it would play in the rest of my life. Whether I stay in for my minimum commitment or make a career out of the Navy, I don’t consider what I do just a job; the Navy is a lifestyle and one that I embrace and am very excited for, but also something I take very seriously.

“I don’t take lightly the trust that the nation puts on the military and want to live up to the expectations that the public has on the military, and especially an officer.”

Tell us a bit about how and why you founded the Academy’s first Native American club?

“When I was a plebe, I got to talking to one of my professors about being



Jacque Kennedye

Native American. It turns out she had been trying for years to establish a club, but hadn’t had any students to head the effort. She ended up recruiting a couple of other students that were Native and we began to write the proposal and charter for the club which was eventually submitted to the Commandant of Midshipmen for approval.

“Thus, the first ever Native American Heritage Club, or NAHC, was estab-

lished. Even though it was a lot of work to take on during my first year, I thought the club was important to both support fellow Native students at the academy and also to spread knowledge and awareness about the culture to other students. Many students knew nothing about the culture and I was surprised at first to see how interested people were in it.”

Upon your graduation what will you be doing? Was this something you always wanted to do or is it something that has developed since you began at Annapolis?

“On July 1, I began flight school to be a Navy pilot in Pensacola, Florida.

“I came to the academy initially wanting to be a surface warfare officer, but changed my course after my 2/C year summer training where I got to do some flying and spend time in the aviation community. It seemed like a better fit for me and I’m very excited.

“I recently got married and my husband is also going to be a Navy pilot.”

CPN Veterans report: August 2016



By Daryl Talbot, Commander of the CPN Veterans Organization

Bozho,

The CPN Veterans Organization has had a very active summer and it’s not over yet.

In June the CPN Veterans Organization’s Color Guard presented the colors at the FireLake Arena for the Shawnee-Tecumseh Indian Education’s Student Craft Mar-

ket and Powwow. The emcee was Cortney Yarholer, co-emcee was Lord Stormwalker, the head singer was Ryan Goodfox, arena director was John Soap and host Northern Drum was Blackbird. The sponsors included the Tinker Intertribal Council, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Sac and Fox Nation, Seminole Nation, Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority, Shawnee Indian Education and Tecumseh Indian Education. It was a full house and we were lucky to have an air-conditioned venue.



George Hamilton by Daryl Talbot.

At the CPN Festival we had many visitors to the veterans booth. Our new t-shirts were a big hit. The biggest event was our honored WWII veteran fighter pilot, George Hamilton, who celebrated turning 100 years young and has led a very active and eventful life. He is one of our favorite members.

Remember the CPN Veterans Organization meets every fourth Tuesday at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the Potawatomi Powwow Grounds. All CPN and spouse veterans and their families are welcome. A meal is provided.

Migwetch.

WITHOUT YOUR ADDRESS, WE DON'T KNOW YOU EXIST

Is your address information updated with CPN Tribal Rolls? In the next year, the tribal government will examine population numbers across the U.S. for legislative redistricting. It is vital that we have your most up-to-date address information.

Please contact tribal rolls today and update your address information by calling (800) 880-9880.

Collard receives Friend of the Court Award at 2016 Sovereignty Symposium

For several years, tribal Economic Development Director James C. Collard, Ph.D. has led discussion panels at the annual Sovereignty Symposium. Though not Native American, Collard has long been an advocate for economic development in Indian Country, and his panel discussions with high profile speakers are some of the best attended events at the symposium. This year's panel included U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Jay Williams, Oklahoma Secretary of State Chris Benge and former congressman and current president of corporate development at the Chickasaw Nation, Dan Boren.

Hosted by the Oklahoma Supreme Court "to provide a forum in which ideas concerning common legal issues can be exchanged in a scholarly, non-adversarial environment," the symposium's organizers honored Collard at the 2016 event with its Friend of the Court Award.

The award is presented to an individual who is not a lawyer, but who has staunchly supported the efforts and principles demonstrated at the Sovereignty Symposium.

"It was quite an honor to receive this award," said Collard. "I believe in



DG Smalling presents James Collard, Ph.D. with a piece of art as part of his friend of the court award.

the mission of gathering great minds in Oklahoma to address the challenges and opportunities impacting our Native nations, so to be recognized is humbling."

Previous recipients of the Friend of the Court include the Honorable Bill

Anoatubby, governor of the Chickasaw Nation, Chief Jim Cox and former state legislators Enoch Kelly Haney, Cal Hobson, Jim Glover, Neil Chapman, Stuart Osler and Paul Haley.

Collard holds a Ph.D. in Political

Science from the University of Missouri – St. Louis, as well as a Master of Public Administration Degree from the University of Oklahoma. He currently serves as the director of planning and economic development for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, and is a past board member for the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of the CPN Community Development Corporation Small Loan Review Committee as well as the chief of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Police Department.

Collard was the City Manager for the City of Shawnee, Oklahoma from 2004 to 2008. In 2014, Dr. Collard was appointed as the chair of the Oklahoma Governor's International Team, and also served as the chair of the International economic Development Council's Public Policy Action Committee.

Most recently, he was appointed to the International Economic Development Council Board of Directors. Along with his work in economic development, Collard teaches regional and urban planning as an adjunct professor at the University of Oklahoma.

U.S. Supreme Court rules in favor of tribal court

Following a 4-4 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, the courts of Native American tribal governments will retain their authority to hear lawsuits brought by tribal members against non-tribal enterprises. The case, *Dollar General vs. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians* upholds a decision from the U.S. Fifth Circuit of Appeals affirming the right of the Choctaws' tribal court to hear a lawsuit brought by a tribal member against the corporation.

The issue stemmed from a series of sexual assaults by a non-Native Dollar General employee on a young tribal member working there. The store, which is on tribal grounds, fell under the jurisdiction of the tribal court and Dollar General was named as a defendant through vicarious liability.

As noted in an in-depth piece in Indian Country Today Media Network, though the U.S. attorney in Mississippi has jurisdiction on Indian reservation crimes, they declined to press charges against Townsend. The family of the alleged victim sued the attacker and corporation for actual and punitive damages in tribal court. The corporation attempted to have the \$2.5 million suit dismissed, claiming the

tribal court did not have jurisdiction in the case. This stance stood in contrast to the contract signed between the tribe and Dollar General which bound the store to the jurisdiction of tribal court.

In Oklahoma, the court case pitted Attorney General Scott Pruitt against several tribal nations. The attorney general's office filed a brief in support of Dollar General, arguing that some Native American tribal court systems were unqualified to handle cases dealing with non-tribal members.

The attorney general's brief argued that, "the non-member, even after they have hired an attorney, will be walking into a tribal court with none of the jurisprudential certainty that they would have in state or federal court, unaware of the elements of the claims they are defending against, and unaware of what defenses might be available to them."

Oklahoma tribes including the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, Muscogee Creek and Seminole nations filed their own briefs in support of the Mississippi Choctaw court system.

Despite the 4-4 decision, which affirms the lower courts' findings, Attorney General Pruitt told *The Jour-*



The United States Supreme Court will hear two Indian Country cases in the 2016 session.

nal Record newspaper that the result would not impact Oklahoma because the case was heard in the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court. Oklahoma falls under the jurisdiction of the 10th Circuit Court.

"It's unfortunate the court wasn't able to provide more clarity on the important issues in the case, but our primary objective was in ensuring that the 5th Circuit's incorrect ruling was not given effect in Oklahoma, and we achieved that end," Pruitt said.

Though the ruling does not set a firm national standard, a defeat for the Mississippi Choctaws at the Supreme Court could have had a negative impact on tribal courts' abilities to exercise their jurisdiction in civil cases over nonmembers. In this instance, the victim's family sued Dollar General for monetary damages in tribal court, and the corporation unsuccessfully argued that the tribal court could not exercise jurisdiction over it.

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Exhibits take shape at heritage center

More than two years after a broken City of Shawnee water pipe dumped thousands of gallons of water into the CPN Cultural Heritage Center, the new exhibits are coming together. Many of the visitors who came to Festival and Gathering were able to see the progress while enjoying music, eagle demonstrations, cultural classes and the Citizen Potawatomi Gift Shop.

With the help of Atlas Fine Art Services, a Washington-based exhibit design firm, CHC staff came up with new approaches to tell the history and culture of the Potawatomi. Before constructing the museum exhibit, a plan had to be formulated, including big decisions like the narrative and layout to seemingly small details like fonts and colors. Staff focused on what kind of impressions they wanted visitors to leave with and which feelings the exhibits should evoke.

“Working with an exhibit design firm is a new experience for me and Blake Norton, our curator and archivist,” CHC Director Kelli Mosteller, Ph.D., said. “In the past we’ve done the exhibits by ourselves, which is a lot of work to try to make an idea a finished product on the museum floor. It took us almost three years to get half of the museum finished prior to the flood.”

It was important to Mosteller and Norton to choose a firm that understood cultural sensitivities, was flexible and would allow CPN tribal members to do much of the work. Mosteller explained that tribal member input and hands-on participation creates an exhibit for the Citizen Potawatomi people, by the Citizen Potawatomi people.

Comanche Nation tribal member Scott Jones is the owner and operator of Atlas. Jones has lived in Oklahoma and received his Bachelor of Fine



The first section of the new exhibit is now open.

Arts from the University of Oklahoma. He and his wife are both tribal members who received training at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture.

“Native American museums operate on more of a heartfelt level so that when we need to talk about something that is culturally sensitive, they know they have our full attention and we won’t take any shortcuts,” Jones said. “Their needs come first and the culture’s needs come first.”

Jones and Norton explained the vision of the new exhibits to the *Hownikan* and shared what will be coming in the next year as the project moves into its final stages.

As the introduction to the overall past of the Potawatomi, the first section

boasts a spiral design with a structure in the middle. The idea was to start in a central point when the three nations – the Potawatomi, Ojibwe and Ottawa - were spoken of as one, moving outward towards the second gallery.

The first section also features the Seven Fires Prophecy, explaining the origin of the tribe, mass migrations, historical context, hardships and benefits of western contact, loss of cultural ways and the seventh prophecy which tells of how a new people emerge and retrace the steps of elders to regain the cultural ways. This section is the basis for the rest of the exhibit, which will lead chronologically through Potawatomi history and end with the section “CPN Now.”

Festival goers also got the earliest look at the first five cases of the

veteran memorial exhibit lining the outer wall of the long room. These cases featured traditional items carried by Potawatomi warriors in the pre-European and early European contact eras. The latter’s display also shows the introduction of items like new weaponry, acculturation in warfare, the Northwest Indian War - also known as Little Turtle’s War - and the War of 1812.

The heritage center staff hopes to complete construction of the museum by June 2017. To learn more and keep up to date with the progress, please visit www.potawatomiheritage.org and “Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Cultural Heritage Center” on Facebook.

Iron Horse Industrial Park update: August 2016

One of the most critical pieces of a rail-anchored industrial park is currently under construction at Iron Horse. The park is adding 7,000 feet of internal rail lines, which will have immediate connections to the Arkansas-Oklahoma and Union Pacific rail networks. With construction on the rail system progressing, tribal economic development director James Collard Ph.D. has been working to recruit businesses to the park, which is strategically located in the geographic center of the United States.

His recruitment efforts recently led him to the SelectUSA conference in Washington, D.C.

“I have met with many different individuals and companies about what we have going on here and have made some really good contacts,” said Collard. “There were quite a few breakout sessions that



The internal rail line will have immediate connections to the Arkansas-Oklahoma and Union Pacific rail networks.

helped us learn a lot more about what goes into teaming up with foreign investors. As far as we know, we were the only tribe down there and are looking forward to next year’s summit.”

The tribe is showing heavy interest in

businesses and entities that manufacture renewable energy sources such as geothermal, solar and wind power because it’s consistent with Native American culture for preservation of the environment. Businesses looking to become a part of Iron Horse will be issued a HEARTH Act lease.

The leases allow for the authority of federally recognized tribes to develop and implement their own laws governing the long-term leasing of Indian lands for residential, business and other purposes.

To learn more about Iron Horse Industrial Park, please visit www.IronHorseCPN.com, scan this QR code or contact the CPN Office of Economic Development at 405-275-3121.



Improved data management by Tyler Laudette furthers ICW mission to protect Potawatomi families

With approximately 141 children under their supervision, the staff of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Indian Child Welfare Department must keep up to date records for each individual child they oversee. Keeping track of the extensive amounts of paperwork is vital to the department's mission of monitoring the children and families in their charge. One tribal employee, Tyler Laudette, brings his own expertise from the military and professional sector to this work.

Laudette was born at Ft. Sill in Lawton, Oklahoma, the son of a career U.S. Army soldier. Though born in Oklahoma, the family travelled extensively while his father was stationed at installations across the globe. Upon his father's retirement from the Army, the family returned to Oklahoma to live closer to his mother's family, and Laudette graduated from Elgin High School in 1978.

He followed in his father's footsteps, serving in the U.S. Air Force after his high school graduation.

"I enjoyed travelling the world," Laudette said. "After the service I moved to Philadelphia and lived there for 27 years. I guess that makes me a Yankee, or so I've been told."

In Philadelphia, Laudette worked as a paralegal and legal assistant in various specialties of the legal field, serving executive level lawyers. In his work, he also handled human relations duties, overseeing the recruitment and retention of staff at the firms he was employed at. Though the paralegal duties were strenuous, Laudette also became a full time student, earning both a bachelor's of science and a master's of business administration from the University of Phoenix.

After nearly three decades in the City of Brotherly Love, Laudette began looking for avenues to bring him back to Oklahoma. In 2013, he made the move, in large part to be closer to his 93-year-old father. While highly qualified and possessing a wealth of professional experience, Laudette still beat the pavement – in 21st century terms - in search of employment opportunities in Oklahoma.

"I stumbled onto CPN's website and saw the posting for a file and scanner clerk," he recalled. "I applied for the position and was subsequently hired by Janet Draper, our fearless leader in Indian Child Welfare. I intended this to be a temporary job while I continued to seek something different – something challenging and rewarding. I had no idea what was about to happen."

Like many departments in government and commercial offices, ICW staff have spent the past several years transitioning their once cumbersome and space consuming physical records into digital formats. Laudette's experience with similar challenges in his previous work as a paralegal has been a boon for the ICW Department in this regard.

As he explained about his mission, "I spoke with the case managers about their needs, what they would like to see happen moving forward, and showed them how the files could be adapted to accommodate the varying levels of ICW involvement. Utilizing my MBA I've streamlined much of the documents we use which makes the user more efficient and productive."

"Tyler has a great background and it helps a lot in ICW case work especially legal forms and understanding state law," said ICW Director



Tyler Laudette

Janet Draper. "Coming into tribal jurisdiction can be confusing but Tyler is adjusting remarkably well."

As Laudette admits, sorting and organizing stacks of paperwork can appear "mundane" on its face. However, the lives and cases contained in these papers are vitally important to families who fall under ICW's jurisdiction, as well as the staff members responsible for monitoring them.

"Once you're on this side of things, what I do matters because it provides the case managers and others with needed information at the touch of a button. One of the duties of this position is to track data – incoming calls, court appearances, number of cases in our tribal court, the State of Oklahoma, and those in other states. The information I track is used to assist in preparing grants – everything from the number of calls to the types of cases, to number of children affected, and we all work very hard to ensure that every eligible child

becomes an enrolled member of the tribe."

It isn't always paperwork though. With a small but dedicated staff, the CPN ICW Department operates with an "all hands on deck" mentality, meaning even someone with a title scanner clerk may serve as a case manager when needed.

"Those experiences gave me new respect for case managers everywhere and getting to help social workers understand the Indian Child Welfare Act and how it should be implemented to achieve successful outcomes brought its own degree of reward and satisfaction, and something I thoroughly enjoyed doing."

More than two years after initially joining the department, Laudette says that he is happy to see where ICW has come in terms of its record keeping and organization processes.

"Having to go through stacks and stacks of unorganized papers looking for a document is now a thing of the past here in ICW. Considering where this department was just two years ago and having a vision for where we go regarding data management is an exciting journey to think about," he said.

Laudette's move to Oklahoma has panned out in terms of his satisfaction with his work for CPN's ICW Department, whose work is both challenging but also incredibly important.

"Being a part of this tribe and especially this department has given me a sense of pride I've never felt in any other job. It may sound cliché, but I really am proud to be an employee of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Indian Child Welfare Department."

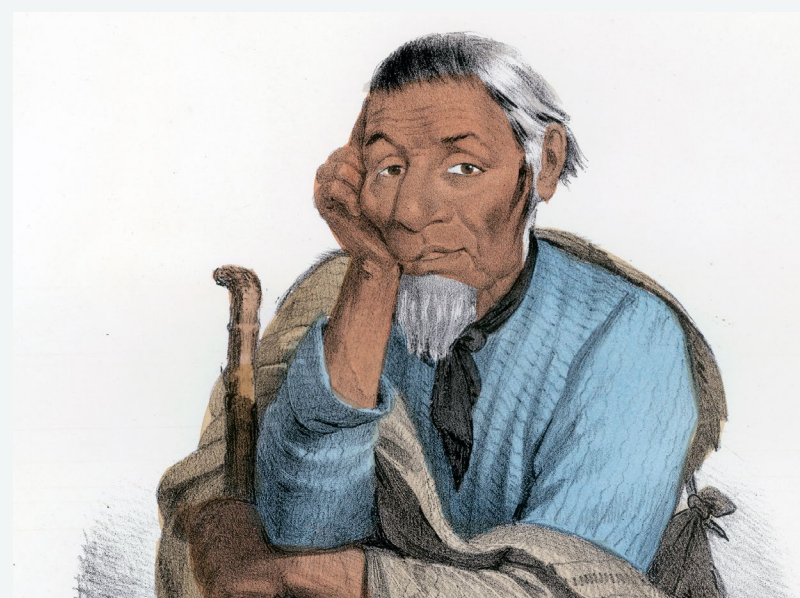
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The 1815 Treaty of Portage des Sioux



July marked the 201st anniversary of the Treaty of Portage des Sioux [July 18, 1815]. The treaty was a means to affirm previous compacts and ultimately draw peace between the Potawatomi Nation and the United States, resulting from the depredations caused and faced by both sides during the War of 1812. Exhibiting his status as an esteemed warrior and leader, Sunawchewome [Swift Water], who also went by the alias Pecheco, was first to sign for the Potawatomi Nation.

A look back at Festival 2016

More than 3,000 Citizen Potawatomi travelled to Shawnee, Oklahoma for the annual Festival, a slightly lower number than usual, due in part to many tribal members choosing to attend the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations which took place at CPN in late July.

As always, tribal activities, both art contests and sporting, took place amidst a flurry of food, family and festivities.

In the Friday afternoon pool tournament, Landon Kellough won the youth competition title while Chris Westmoorland took the adult division.

Friday evening, the moves were more strategic in nature as the chess, checkers and dominoes competitions kicked off. Bud Jeffrey took first place in chess, while Eddie Moore finished as the eventual champion of the checkers competition. Justin Arbogast took the top spot in dominoes.

It took nearly three hours but the Darling Family team of Kenney Reed, Glenda Ivy, Dennis Ivy, Melanie Ivy, David Ivy, Terri Fulton and Victoria Ivy were crowned 2016 CPN Festival Hand Games Champions.

The art competitions had heavy participation as always, with winners in the following divisions:

- **5 – under:** Tyson Moore, “Tie Die”
- **6-9 year old:** Adam Knight, “Birds of a Feather”
- **10-12 year old:** Camber Baca, “Indian Life”
- **13-15 year old:** Bryce Peltier, “Self Portrait”



District 1 legislator Roy Slavin leads out the veterans for Grand Entry during the 2016 CPN Family Reunion Festival.

- **Adult Painting-Photography:** Penny Coates, “Leather Storyteller”
- **Adult Other:** Laura Weinstein, “Medicine Bandolier”

There were two forms of target competitions going on at Festival 2016. In women’s traditional archery, Jessica Burt took the top prize, while in the compound competition, Amber Coffey finished first. In men’s traditional archery, Terry Bower was the top archer. Men’s compound archery went to Beau Dailey.

In the pistol match taking place at BDC Gun Room, Si Fentress took the men’s open competition title while Chris Farve won the .22 men’s division. Brooke Desrochers became the inaugural women’s open champion, while Marie Parmer took first place in the women’s .22 division.

In a testament early morning exercise, Thomas Nickou and Melania

Nickou won the annual 5k event in the male and female divisions. The adult basketball competition went to the Peltier Team 3 made up of David Fuqua, Logan Hubble and Jordan Fuqua. In the softball tournament Team Buckmasters took the title after a close game against Old School.

At the annual general council meeting, District 9 Representative Paul Wesselhöft and District 12 Representative Paul Schmidkofer were both sworn in for four year terms after facing no opposition in the tribal elections. Jennifer Lamirand, an attorney at Crowe and Dunleavy and a tribal member, was sworn in as CPN’s newest supreme court justice. The annual budget was approved with 1,103 for and 51 against.

Keeping with tribal tradition at general council, the meeting’s youngest, wisest and furthest travelled attendees were honored. George Hamil-

ton, just two weeks shy of his 100th birthday, was honored as the wisest attendee, while the youngest in attendance was Madison Bea Gragg, just 10 days old. Carmelita Talty from Vancouver, Washington was the meeting’s farthest travelled, traversing 1,946 miles to visit CPN Festival.

On Saturday evening, dancers from across the Nation converged on the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Powwow Arena for the Gourd Dance, Grand Entry and competitive dance competitions. Leading the way into the arena for Grand Entry was the CPN Veterans Organization Color Guard, followed by the elected legislature and honored families. Honored families this year were Clardy, Frapp, Kahdot, Juneau, Pappan, Crumbo and Muller.

Women’s dance competition finalists were first place finisher Tesia Zientek, followed by Margaret Zientek and Candace Painter. In the men’s dance competition, Jayson Lambert took the top place with Lyle Simmons and Justin Neely finishing second and third respectively.

On Sunday morning, the arena is transformed into an open-air volleyball court, with the Moore Family taking first place in the tournament.

As always, the Festival 2017 is tentatively planned to take place the final weekend of June. The honored families will be Bourassa, Burnett, Melot, Navarre, Peltier, Wamego, Willmet and Vieux.

FireLodge Tribal Youth Update: August 2016

By Darin Greene, FireLodge Tribal Youth Coordinator

The month of August means that summer is coming to an end and school is beginning again. The PLACE Tribal Youth Program’s summer session will end with a trip to Six Flag Over Texas in Arlington. This trip will be for the youth who complete 40 hours of community service and keep their grades up.

On the agenda for the GET Native Program involves stickball and lacrosse at the powwow grounds, talking circles about summer break and beginning a new school year and cultural lessons. Tribal youth will take an Intro to Native 101 class, discussing what all Native Americans should know about being an American Indian. They will also learn specifically about the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the Potawatomi people.

The GET Smart Program will include a college readiness class, af-

ter school homework assistance and team building activities like Scrabble scramble and group pie eating contests. The STEM Program will be back in full swing as the students create Lego robots and racecars.

Fitness is also very important in the program, so we have a lot on the agenda for the GET Fit Program. Tribal youth will play traditional and Navajo kickball. They will also play old-fashioned six-on-six basketball and prepare for the upcoming 5K by walking two miles per day.

With the 2016 Summer Olympics in mind, the tribal youth will be enjoying egg volleyball, hula hoop races, giant water balloon team relays, silly shot put with a sock filled with Fruit Loops and dizzy discus with paper plates.

If you have a tribal youth that would be interested in our FireLodge Tribal Youth or PLACE programs, please call 405-214-5110 or email dgreene@potawatomi.org.



OU Health Science Center’s Terrorism and Disaster Director Betty Pfefferbaum, MD, JD, and her twin sister Rose taught the PLACE tribal youth about terrorism and disaster topics.

Potawatomi singer releases debut album

The Flint Hills of Kansas are home to a folk band called The Skirts, which is led on vocals and rhythm guitar by tribal member and Ogee family descendent Elexa Dawson. This year her band released their debut full length album titled, “Many Moons.” As the lead singer and songwriter for the whole album, Dawson has let her Native roots inspire the project in many ways.

Dawson grew up in Chandler, Oklahoma and has been performing since the age of five. Dawson attributes her musical interests to her grandparents. All of the songs on the album are originally written and sung by Dawson.

Her Potawatomi heritage stands out the most in one song in particular, a song inspired by her great-grandmother Edith Martin Roberts, who attended Chilocco Indian School.

“I did a lot of research of what it would have been like to go to the school to find inspiration for the song,” said Dawson. “I then took what I know about the school from my great-grandmother and wrote a historical fiction type of song about what it would have been like to attend Chilocco.”

In the lyrics, she uses the Potawatomi word *chemokman*, meaning “white man.” The word is a reference to the

assimilation and Christianization of the children who attended the boarding school.

“I didn’t grow up listening to traditional Native American music, but my interest has grown since I’ve got older,” said Dawson. “At the end of ‘Chilocco’ is a traditional chant I learned from a Native women’s drum group. The chant signifies hopefulness in being a strong woman and I wanted that to be an honor to my great-grandmother.”

Dawson’s band has been together for seven years and is booked nearly every weekend during the summer playing live shows around the state. The band members are all friends and played several years just for fun before deciding to make something more official of their jam sessions.

“We consider ourselves a folk type band that borders on bluegrass,” said Dawson. “There is every kind of instrument you can think of on this album from upright bass and mandolin to banjo and fiddle.”

“Many Moons” was recorded in Lawrence, Kansas, earlier this year by Mike West at the “9th Ward Pickin’ Parlor.” Those interested in learning more information about the band or wish to purchase their album please visit www.cdbaby.com/cd/theskirts1.



Elexa Dawson

Kyla’s story continued...

takes to hatch, the eggs did not hatch. On day 35, Kyla brought food to the unhatched eggs, as if she knew she was supposed to have a chick. She went into a mourning process where she didn’t eat and threw her head back and yelled for almost five days. It was then that the staff knew that Kyla needed to be a parent.

Randell contacted William Voelker at Sia: the Comanche Nation Ornithological Initiative, in Cyril, Oklahoma. Voelker had a 10-day-old tawny eagle that wasn’t doing as well in the incubator as he would have been if raised by parents. Tawny eagles are an exotic species, originally from Africa. Sia houses exotic species whose numbers are being threatened in the wild, along with other native birds.

The staff at Sia and the CPN Aviary agreed to let Kyla raise the chick. This was a big risk because the chick could fit in the palm of ones hand. Kyla also never had raised a chick before, and staff did not know how she or Charlie would react or if even accept him. One false move could have proven fatal.

On April 13, CPN aviary and Sia staff removed the eggs and put the chick in Kyla and Charlie’s nest.

“Once safely out of the enclosure, we all waited by the door, watching the camera feed, ready to intervene if things did not go well. Kyla came charging back to the nest but quickly

stopped when she saw the chick. Our hearts were nearly pounding out of our chest,” Randell said. “Once she got close enough to the chick, he instinctively moved towards her to get warm. Once they touched it seemed like something just clicked. Kyla got around the chick, gently covering him. We cried. After seeing that Kyla was brooding the chick perfectly, we waited nearly three hours to see if she and Charlie would feed him. The chick had to eat soon or we would have to remove him. Finally, after what seemed like forever, Charlie brought food to the nest. Kyla fed the baby and, of course, we all cried again. It was a beautiful moment to see their natural instincts come to life in such a fragile moment.”

The family has been thriving in their enclosure at the aviary. The chick is now nearly as large as Charlie and has begun to fly. Tawny eagles have a 77-84 day fledging period, when chicks learn to fly and fend for themselves. After that period, there is a plan to remove the eagle from the enclosure as would naturally happen in the wild. Since the bird will be fully-flighted and his species is threatened, it will likely be used to support breeding efforts of this beautiful creature.

Check cpn.news/eaglevisions frequently for updates about this chick, our eagle residents and the visitors that come to see us at the aviary.



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2016 FAMILY REUNION FESTIVAL



An aerial image of FireLake during #CPNFest16.



Hartman Gursky (Cory family) from Plano, Texas and Dash Hewitt (Cory family) from Bells, Texas at the mini-putt tournament.



The CPN drum group performing during the dancing demonstration.



Billy Cornelius III (Curly family) goes for a point at the volleyball tournament.



Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett addresses the crowd at general council.



Jaelin Smith from Harrah, Oklahoma of the Anderson family participates in the archery competition.



Rave Clay of the Greemore family pieces together his choker necklace at one of the classes at the Cultural Heritage Center.



Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett at Grand Entry followed by Vice-Chairman Linda Capps and Secretary-Treasurer D. Wayne Trousdale.



Judge Phil Lujan leads the Gourd Dance.



Grass dancer Lyle Simmons just before Grand Entry.



The Frapp family was one of six honored families at this years Festival.



Justin Neely, Lyle Simmons and Jayson Lambert were the winners of the men's open dance competition during the powwow.



Margaret Zientek, Candace Bolt and Tesia Zientek were the winners of the women's southern cloth dance during the powwow.



The 2016 PLP participating in the Hand Games Tournament.



Jim Talty and his grandchildren took a break from the heat to check out the Cultural Heritage Center.

All photos from the 2016 Family Reunion Festival are available online at cpn.news/cpnfest16pics

Tribe honored as one of Oklahoma's most charitable organizations

Citizen Potawatomi Nation has again been recognized for its charitable influence, receiving an honor at the annual Beacon Awards hosted by the *Journal Record* newspaper.

"With the economic downturn and belt-tightening throughout the state, nonprofits have also taken a hard hit to their revenues," said Joni Brooks, president and publisher of The *Journal Record*. "That made the Beacon awards even more special this year. Our honorees continued to give and encouraged their employees to give of their time, serving as shining examples to all businesses about the positive impacts they make to the nonprofits they choose to work with. Together with our partners, First Fidelity Bank and the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits, we congratulate and thank our Beacon Award honorees for all they've done and continue to do."

The tribe was among more than two dozen honorees recognized at the Beacon Awards event. Other honorees were Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma, Enable Midstream Partners, the Chickasaw Nation, Delta Dental of Oklahoma and the American Red Cross of Central and Southwest Oklahoma.

"To be recognized among so many great Oklahoma organizations for charitable work in our communities is a real honor," said Brad Peltier, CPN Executive Operations Coordinator. "The Nation, its members and employees take pride in giving to our community, our neighbors and those

in need. We are thankful for being recognized for such an award."

With more than 2,400 employees in its commercial enterprises and tribal government programs, the tribe is the largest employer in Pottawatomie County. The vast majority of these individuals live and work in the communities near the tribal jurisdiction, meaning the presence of charitable services and civic engagement directly affects their families, friends and neighbors.

"Citizen Potawatomi Nation's charitable giving efforts are part of a larger strategy to operate tribal government, commercial and philanthropic efforts for the betterment of the entire community in Pottawatomie County," added Peltier. "This strategy has been developed in line with Tribal Chairman John 'Rocky' Barrett's ethos that a rising tide lifts all boats."

"By supporting charitable giving efforts, CPN's objective is to foster a deeper investment in the people that patronize its businesses, work in tribal programs and grow the overall economy of Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma," said CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps.

Tribal-owned enterprises make significant charitable contributions in the area, including providing food and grocery donations at cost to area nonprofits including the Shawnee Rescue Mission's food pantry and the Salvation Army's weekly soup kitchen. In addition, gaming en-



CPN's 2016 Beacon Award and commendation from Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin.

terprises such as the Grand Casino Hotel Resort host events such as an annual toy drive and fundraiser with the proceeds and gifts are donated directly to local youth and families that are in need.

In 2015 alone, employees donated more than 1,274 pounds of food for full Thanksgiving dinners to 175 families in the CPN service area, which encompasses most of Pottawatomie County and parts of Cleveland and Oklahoma counties.

Through these and numerous other examples, the tribal leadership encourages the spirit of partnership and investment in fellow community organizations that benefitted the tribe and its people so many years ago.

For the most recent fiscal year, Citizen Potawatomi Nation donated more than \$2.9 million to the local community. Donations from CPN tribal car tag sales to Oklahoma schools were more than \$273,000 in this same period. Through the tribal rolls department, more than \$5 million in scholarships were awarded.

"Even in the best economic times, the roles that civic and charitable organizations play in a place like Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma cannot be understated," said Vice-Chairman Capps. "By supporting these organizations, Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the entire community benefit in the long run."

CPN legislative update: August 2016

Following the re-elections of representatives Paul Schmidtkofer and Paul Wesselhöft, the 2016-17 CPN Legislature met on June 27, 2016.

Resolutions in support of several issues were fully supported, including the tribe's grant application to the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development at the Department of the Interior, a funding application for Iron Horse Industrial Park to the U.S. Department of Commerce, and applications for a community services block grant and low income home

and energy assistance program. Tribal legislators also passed a resolution supporting the tribe's grant application to the Department of the Interior's Tribal Energy Development Capacity Grant Program.

A resolution consolidating employment, training and education services pursuant to Public Law 102-477 passed with all 16 legislators voting in support.

The legislature also voted for a resolution officially designating the tribal

seal as the official insignia of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

In tribal membership, legislators approved the voluntary relinquishment of membership for Misti Nicole Buckley and Azurerae Skye Kacura, while conditional relinquishments were approved for Danica Paige McTague and Julia Kay Simpson.

Legislators also approved the membership applications of 294 new tribal members into the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Title 44, Chapter 3 of the tribal sales tax statutes were amended, with 15 votes in favor and one opposed. An amendment to Title 44, Chapter 7 of the tribal statutes on the bingo surcharge passed without opposition. The tribal earnings tax was repealed with 16 votes in favor.

The legislature also updated the tribal code by changing all references to the "business committee," to henceforth refer to the "tribal legislature."

NEED HELP KEEPING THE AC ON?

LIHEAP funds are available to assist with air conditioning costs from June 1-September 30.

Contact CPN Employment and Training at 405-598-0797 to learn more.

Household must have at least one person that is a registered member of a federally recognized tribe.

Available for households in Pottawatomie, Lincoln, Payne, Cleveland counties and Oklahoma County east of Post Road.

CPN education update: August 2016

By Staff of the CPN Department of Education

The recently-establish CPN Department of Education is fully staffed with a director, two college advisors and an internship coordinator. We have had the pleasure of speaking to over 100 tribal members in the few past few months, but for those who

to restructure and implement curriculum for the Harvard Honoring Nations Award-winning internship program.

Channing Seikel is a 2010 graduate from Oklahoma Baptist University, where she studied sociology and family science. After graduation, she accepted a job at her alma mater as

Joshua Bullock is a 2012 graduate of OBU where he studied history and minored in German. He is also a 2015 graduate with an MBA from St. Gregory's University. Joshua is currently pursuing his Ed.D in Educational Leadership at the University of New England. He has been in education since 2013 working for both OBU and SGU, the latter

trainer in human resources. While working in this capacity, Mindee created, developed and wrote training programs specific to various departmental needs, conducted weekly new hire orientation, and worked with employees to build advanced skills. Mindee graduated magna cum laude from St. Gregory's University in May 2015 with an Associate's



*Education Director
Tesia Zientek*



*Senior College Advisor
Channing Seikel*



*College Advisor
Joshua Bullock*



*Internship Coordinator
Mindee Duffell*

we have not yet met, we would love to share a little bit about ourselves.

Tesia Zientek is a Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member. With financial help from a prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship, she graduated magna cum laude from the University of Notre Dame in 2009 with her Bachelor of Arts in English. After graduation, Tesia spent two years teaching and running an after school program in Puerto Rico before deciding to pursue her passion for education through graduate study. In 2013, she graduated with her Master of Arts in Education Policy from Stanford University. To celebrate her educational and employment-related achievements, Tesia was recognized in 2013 for the Howard Yackus Memorial Award. In October 2015, she became the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's first director of its new department of education. Since 2012, Tesia has also served as Potawatomi Leadership Program advisor, helping

a senior admission counselor. While at OBU, Channing provided individualized advisement to prospective students, developed an in-depth training manual for new admission counselors, planned and executed an annual, highly attended college fair for central Oklahoma and established recruiting and admission best practices. In 2016, she joined the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education team as a senior college advisor. In this capacity, she establishes, maintains, and nurtures effective relationships with Native American students, families, guidance counselors, and Indian education coordinators. In addition, she guides students and families through scholarship opportunities and applications, standardized testing preparation and college search options. A first generation college student, Channing has found her passion in being an advocate for those pursuing higher education.

at which Joshua advised non-traditional students in the degree fields of education, business, psychology, and business at the graduate level. In 2016, Joshua joined the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education as a college advisor. He actively serves any student he can to help them find the right university, program and scholarship opportunities. As a first generation college student, Joshua developed a love for those who need a helping hand as they begin their college search.

Mindee Duffell has extensive experience in the workforce development field. From May 2009 through April 2012, she worked with the State of Oklahoma's Employment Security Commission for Workforce Oklahoma, where she organized job fairs, discovered local workforce needs and determined applicant work history, training and education for job placement. In 2012, Mindee joined the Citizen Potawatomi Nation as a

Degree in Business and is currently completing her bachelor's degree. The aforementioned experience prepared Mindee to join the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's first education department in March 2016, where she serves as the internship coordinator. Mindee works with prospective interns and departmental directors to determine best matches, develop internship projects and offer general support to ensure that interns receive a personalized, professionally beneficial experience.

If you would like to learn more about the educational opportunities available through the CPN Department of Education, please visit <http://www.potawatomi.org/services/education> or email college@potawatomi.org.



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Bozho Nikanek,
(Hello my friends)

By the time you’ve read this we will have just wrapped up the 2016 Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations, which was hosted in Shawnee. For those that may not know, the seven sovereign tribal nations of Potawatomi that are scattered across the U.S. and the two First Nation reserves in Canada meet annually in the late-summer to share our oldest and newest tribal traditions, histories and the issues facing us as governments in our respective home jurisdictions.

It was my distinct pleasure to join with my fellow Potawatomi leaders to name the street in front of the CPN Cultural Heritage Center that connects to Heritage Drive in honor of Neaseno, the Potawatomi name of Don Perrot. It means “Warm Southern Wind”. There is heartfelt intentional symbolism in naming this street one

Tribal Chairman - John “Rocky” Barrett

that “connects us to our heritage.” It is a small way for us to recognize the vital role Neaseno played in the revitalization of the Potawatomi culture of the Shishibenyek – the “Duck People” as we were once known before removal from the Great Lakes area. In our tribal history, as we became the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, various non-Potawatomi forces pressured us away from the old Potawatomi ways. Without them, we had no foundation in the spiritual truths of the past on which we could base our future. Until Don Perrot literally “opened our eyes,” we had no active naming tradition, no native culture other than powwow and knew nothing of the ways of traditional Potawatomi prayer and spiritualism. We had no knowledge on which to base the reconciliation of our historical Christian conversion with our Potawatomi history and blood.

It is said “one cannot tell where we are going without knowing where we have been.” It was the incredible gift of this knowledge that Don Perrot gave us, and not without personal risk for himself. Neaseno spent months among us giving lectures and teaching Potawatomi tradition and

religion. Many outside our tribe thought of us as unworthy to know the old ways and criticized him for his teachings. As a courageous Prairie Band Potawatomi tribal member, a pipe carrier, linguist, scholar and teacher, Don has worked for decades to preserve our shared Potawatomi language and traditions. I met Neaseno in 1984 at the Century Center in South Bend, Indiana. To my knowledge, this was the first Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations and would not have happened without his participation. Don gave me my name, led me through my first sweat, and got through my stubbornness and pride to make me learn and see the “Red Road.” His advice in times of personal crisis as a Potawatomi elected leader was precious to me. I will be grateful all of my days. The Shishibenyek will be grateful forever. *Igwien*, Neaseno.

Don is also a most accomplished professional Potawatomi language speaker and teacher. This work is more important than most people realize. First, he and others like him have helped preserve the language our ancestors spoke before Europeans came to this continent. Secondly, and no less importantly, he has helped

keep alive our Potawatomi language, a vital aspect of allowing the Potawatomi tribes to keep their federal recognition as sovereign, dependent nations.

One of the highlights of the Gathering of the Nations was the Potawatomi language conference in the days prior to all of the regular Gathering festivities. Without the work of language professionals like Don Perrot, it is difficult to imagine what our world would look like today as Potawatomi.

It was interesting to listen to my fellow Potawatomi tribal leaders who face similar issues and conflicts in the states and provinces where they reside. One aspect that never seems to cease is local, state and provincial attempts to erode the sovereignty that we as tribal nations have long fought for. While recent court decisions have gone our way here in Oklahoma and at the federal level, the State of Oklahoma, under the malevolent direction of Governor Mary Fallin, has decided to proceed with a strategy that bears resemblance to a war of attrition. Despite being defeated in ruling after ruling at the local, state and federal level, Governor Fallin’s government has no compunction in

appealing to the next highest court at a cost of hundreds of thousands of state taxpayer dollars. I can assure you, the sums are equally obscene on our end as we defend ourselves against these attacks. For tribal members living in Oklahoma, this is a double hit; it’s a waste of their tribal tax dollars and their Oklahoma tax dollars. These attacks appear to be a disastrous form of pressure for us to sign a “sales tax compact” her staff originated. This is a form of extortion. I encourage you to write and call your elected officials and voice your concern.

Some things may never change, but nor will our resolve to defend what is rightfully ours.

As always, it is an honor to serve as Tribal Chairman.

Migwetch,
John “Rocky” Barrett
Keweoge
“He leads them home.”
Tribal Chairman



Vice-Chairman - Linda Capps

year, which occurs during the first weekend of July. The community has had plenty of practice making this festival the perfect event of the year! It began in the 1940s, and is one of the oldest continual festivals in the state of Oklahoma. In the beginning years, the festival was combined with the celebration of the annual blackberry harvest, complete with a town picnic and an Indian powwow. I did not realize until I was an adult that the Kickapoo Tribe played the major role in the McCloud Powwow.

I particularly remember attending the Blackberry Festival when I was 10 years old

with my older brother and sister-in-law. In those days, they had all types of sports competitions, especially for the children. My brother urged me to run in the girl’s foot races, which I declined to do. But he would not let go of that brilliant idea! I suppose there were younger girls than me in the race, but I definitely remember the older girls. For the most part, I did not want to compete because I was embarrassed to run in front of such a large crowd of people sitting in the ball field stadium. In addition, I was not prepared. I had on sandals and socks instead of tennis shoes. I signed up for the race very reluctantly. To this day, I can almost feel the blush on my face from being so mortified to lose a foot race with so many people watching. To add insult to injury, I ran the bases until someone blew a whistle to stop me...the race was supposed to end at first base.

The activities of today’s McCloud Blackberry Festival are numerous and varied. After the parade, there are children’s games, a carnival, a car show, poker run and bak-



The McCloud Blackberry Festival Parade Marshals.

ing contest. The royalty pageant with crowning ceremonies is Saturday afternoon. There are also entertainment acts and fireworks in the evening. There is something for everyone at this wonderful community event!

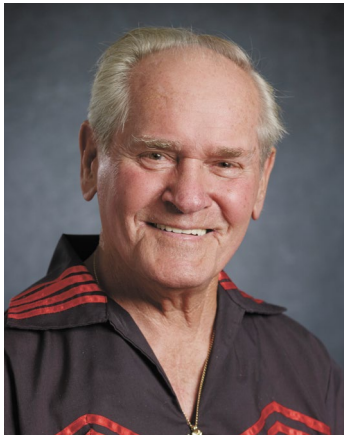
The McCloud Chamber of Commerce is very helpful to the community. They provide important insights on tourism, community involvement and economic development. Beside the McCloud Blackberry Festival, the other fundraiser that the chamber sponsors is the annual McCloud Chili Cook Off, held the third Saturday in October. To make this year’s festival even more special to our tribal people, FireLake Designs was the successful

bidder to provide the t-shirts for the festival. The criteria for the winning company was to design the shirt emblem and provide affordable pricing. I am very proud of Director Lakisha Meade and her staff members. In fact, I saw two ladies in Shawnee just this past weekend wearing the shirts. Congratulations to FireLake Designs and to the McCloud Chamber for their contribution to help make the Blackberry Festival the best ever!

Migwetch,
Linda Capps, Vice-Chairman



The winning shirt by Firelake Designs.



District 1 - Roy Slavin

Bozho Nikan,

August is here and another Family Reunion Festival is history. As always, it was a great time. We met many

new friends, participated in and watched many naming ceremonies and the annual hand games competition, all of which were great fun. It was my pleasure to name five members of the Frapp family.

If you have never been to Festival, put the last week in June on your calendar and save it for next year. You will not regret it.

Another highlight of this Festival was an invite to the

CPN Aviary where Bree and Jennifer, the two ladies who care for the eagles, introduced us to all their charges. The eagle is very special to the Potawatomi. The eagle flies higher, faster and farther than all of God's creatures and carries our prayers to the Creator.

I have mentioned our CPN website in previous articles. For tribal members pursuing under graduate or graduate degrees, you may apply for scholarships at portal.potawatomi.org.

Starting in the fall of 2016 the CPN Department of Education will administer *all* CPN scholarships. So again, it is portal.potawatomi.org.

Fall scholarship applications close Sept. 15, 2016. There is more information on the web site at www.potawatomi.org/services/education.

Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving as your representative. Please call, email or write if you have questions or request that I

may be of help with. I may be reached at 1-888-741-5767 (toll free) or by snail mail at 6730 Tower Drive, Kansas City, Missouri, 64151.

Migwetch,

Roy Slavin
Netagtege (Forever Planting)
rsalavin@potawatomi.org



District 2 - Eva Marie Carney

Bozho nikanek!
(Hello my friends)

Quick update: The two cases in the U.S. Supreme Court addressing sovereignty issues that I wrote about previously have now been resolved consistently with tribal interests. I am drafting a follow-up piece for a legal newsletter and will hopefully get *Hownikan* space for it in the fall.

Ways to contribute: With so much divisiveness in our land and violence throughout the world, I figured devoting a column to encouraging positive, grass roots contributions would be worthwhile writing and (hopefully) reading.

Potawatomi Leadership Program: Through our PLP, 10 college students each

summer serve as interns at our headquarters in Shawnee. The students participate in cultural activities and spend time with the departments and programs operated by the tribe, including those serving tribal elders. They also are asked to develop, in teams of two, a project that the Nation might pursue for everyone's betterment. I had the opportunity to visit with 2016 PLP students Randy Bazhaw (Tennessee), Tom Brunt (Virginia) and Zoe Gustason (Arizona) during the Family Festival and heard their early thoughts about the projects they may propose. I won't tip their hands, but the ideas were compelling. I encourage you to alert your college-age family members to the value of participating in the PLP program. More details can be found at <http://plp.potawatomi.org>.

Adopt-a-Highway Program: Do you remember the 1970s commercial depicting a Native American man shedding a tear as trash is thrown at his feet from a passing car? (You can find it on YouTube.) Litter remains a blight. The Adopt-a-Highway Program operates in vir-

tually every state and in the District of Columbia. Since I run and walk our Virginia road regularly, I signed up CPN Legislative District 2 to adopt a 2.5 mile stretch of it. I keep the road free of trash and publicize our Nation's presence in the process. Participating in the Adopt-a-Highway Program honors Mother Earth and is good exercise (but please watch out for passing cars!) It also saves taxpayers' money. If you, your family or affinity group are physically capable of doing the work, I hope you'll look into the program and then adopt a local road. Please let me know if you participate; I'd love to include a photo of your road adoption sign in a future column.

Help for our neediest relatives: A few years ago I learned from a kind relative that she regularly mailed her family's good used clothing and household items to reservations in South Dakota. We looked into the organization she worked through, the Native American Heritage Association, and learned that since 1993 it has partnered with the Lakota (Sioux) Res-



ervations, where challenges confronted are extreme. Unemployment rates on the reservations are at 80 percent, 70 percent of residents have no transportation, the average life expectancy is 58, infant mortality is 10 times the national average and 31 percent of Native American children under four are obese because of lack of proper nutrition. Per its June 2016 newsletter, NAHA was awarded its 12th 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, an American, independent charity watchdog organization. NAHA reports that 95.5 percent of its total expenses go towards its program services. If you have any gently-used clothing, toys, personal care items, etc. you may ship them to NAHA's warehouse at this ad-

dress: NAHA, 12085 Quaal Rd, Black Hawk, South Dakota 57718. You will receive a charitable donation receipt and your items will be put to immediate use. My rule of thumb in donating is that if I can use it in my household, so can my Lakota relatives.

Migwetch (thank you) for the honor of representing you.

Eva Marie Carney
Ojindiskwe
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CPN's Employment and Training Department is issuing school supplies to Native American students at schools in:

Earlsboro, Bethel, South Rock Creek, Tecumseh, Dale, Choctaw Nicoma Park, Harrah, Macomb, Wanette, Asher, Maud, Little Axe



For eligibility information for those residing in CPN jurisdiction please contact CPN Employment & Training at 405.598.0797.



District 3 - Bob Whistler

Bozho, (hello)

In a *Hownikan* issue or two ago, representative Dave Carney mentioned how his federal tax records were compromised, but fortunately the IRS sent him a note advising he had already filed his return. Today, a great number of us rely on the Internet and our computer or mobile device to do our banking and pay our bills. Consequently, we have a lot of personal information unsecured. Unfortunately, there are many people, as well as institutions, that find ways to access that data and cheat you out of your money or assets.

I recently read about life insurance companies who

have been authorized to automatically debit your bank account to deduct premiums, and will continue to make those debits even after they know the client is dead. This happens when they have access to vital statistics records even though the family has not filed a claim. They will continue to deduct money until the bank account or annuity runs out of funds or is closed. They then cancel the policy. If the family later files a claim, it is denied because they contend the policy lapsed due to failure to make the premium payments. Many times the family has insufficient records to challenge this, and they never collect what was rightfully due them.

In another area, in most states if you have a bank account that has no activity for a long period of time, which can be a few months or up to three years depending upon the state, the bank notifies the state the account is dormant. The state then takes the funds. If it is a safety deposit box, they take the con-

tents and dispose of them. Yes they keep a record, and you can go back later and file a claim. However, let's say you had stock certificates that at the time were worth \$10,000 and they sold them for the \$10,000, but when you file your claim the fair market value for those certificates is \$20,000, you are only going to get what they got when they sold the stock, which was \$10,000. If it was a coin collection worth thousands, you will only get the face value of the coins, which may only be a few hundred dollars.

The above items were meant only to give you a few examples of how easy it is to lose money, value, or assets and the need to be proactive to protect them.

Be careful with what records you have that can be accessed without your permission from your computer. If you have a bank account or safety deposit box, be sure it has activity several times each year. In regard to insurance policies, annuities, or

other financial instruments, create a list of everything. Include the firm name, policy or document account number, value or financial worth, and give a copy of that list to your future heirs or spouse.

Up until about 1985, during more than twenty years of marriage, I handled all of our monetary matters. My spouse had no idea of what we owed, owned or anything about our finances, including insurance policies. I had a job where I traveled extensively, almost every week. I was out of town one week and became very ill, almost to the point, where I felt in jeopardy and realized if I died, my spouse would find it very difficult to just pay the bills, etc. After getting home, I began to switch everything over to her for her handling. Today, she handles all of our finances. Yes, I still know what comes and goes, but she is basically in the loop. Marriage and having a family is a shared responsibility, therefore both partners should be fully knowledgeable of their financial struc-

ture. I too am updating our own information at this time.

In summary, keep good records and share them so that you, your family, heirs, and others who need to know, have records for access concerning what you own. I am not saying we live among many dishonest people, but to simply be prudent in what you do, so nothing is lost as they say in the shuffle.

As always, I'm here to serve you and am proud and honored that you have elected me. I ask that when you need to reach me, please feel free to call my cell phone.

Bama pi, (later)

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District 4 - Jon Boursaw

10, 2016: I will hold a District 4 meeting in the CPN Community Center on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016 at 10 a.m. The meeting is open to all CPN members but invitation cards will only be mailed to the members living in the greater Topeka area and the northeast and north central counties of Kansas. I'm attempting to add new topics to our meeting agendas. I have invited James Collard, Ph.D., the CPN director of economic development and planning, to speak on the economic development of the Nation and in particular the Iron Horse project. It should be extremely interesting. By the way Jim is also the CPN Tribal Police chief. Also I have two additional speakers on the agenda that you should find to be of interest. Please RSVP to me by Tuesday, Sept. 6, if you plan to attend.

Finally a District 4 meeting in western Kansas, Oct. 8, 2016: I have finally scheduled a district meeting in western Kansas. I will hold a meeting in the Clarion Inn in Garden City on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016 at 10 a.m. The meeting is open to all CPN members, but invitation cards will only be mailed to



Citizen Potawatomi Veterans Color Guard.

the members living in the western counties of Kansas. If anyone would like to give a presentation on their tribal family's history and how they settled in western Kansas, let me know.

My upcoming activities:

Friday, Aug. 12, 2016: I am scheduled to give my CPN history presentation as part of the Shepard Center Program at the Loman United Methodist Church in Topeka at 9 a.m. Last year at this same event I had an audience of more than 100.

Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2016: I have been invited to participate in a meeting sponsored by the National Park Service

at the Great Overland Station in Topeka. The purpose of the meeting is to gather ideas and input from community participants for an Oregon Trail-themed park. The area to be discussed lies between Kansas Avenue and Topeka Boulevard along the north side of the Kansas River, commonly known as Pappan's Landing. Here at the base of Harrison Street by the river, Charles Curtis wrote of his memories of watching the ferry operations as a young lad and grandson of the Pappan family. Representatives of the City of Topeka and Shawnee County Parks and Recreation are cooperating in development of this park and welcome the expertise of the NPS team. Needless to

say I am extremely pleased and honored to have been invited to participate in this meeting and to have the opportunity to make input on behalf of the Nation.

Massing of the colors at the Great Overland Station, Memorial Day: For the third consecutive year, the Nation was represented by a 4-man color guard consisting of Roy Slavin, Lyman Boursaw, Paul McGuire and myself. The Nation also sponsored a table for the luncheon that served over 700 veterans and family members.

As always, it is my pleasure to serve as your legislative representative.

Migwetch,

Jon Boursaw, *Wetase Mkoh*
CPN District 4 Rep.
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Office Hours:
Tuesday 9-11 a.m.
Thursday 3-5 p.m.
Other times - Please call

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If you would like your newspaper via email, please email your name and address to hownikan@potawatomi.org and let us know.



District 5 - Gene Lambert

Awesome August to everyone

The Colorado meeting is coming up soon! Hopefully, we can get together in September 2016.

We have always met in a hotel and we have had a lot of

requests to take our meeting outdoors.

I could use some help with that as I live in Arizona and do not know the lay of the land as well as most of you. We could Google it. If you are aware of a place other than the usual hotel event location, I would appreciate your input. Where would you like to meet this year? Let's try to make it happen.

If you have an idea, please give me a call at 480-228-6569 or email me at euniceilambert@gmail.com with your thoughts. We need to move quickly.

The next subject I wanted to address is my LinkedIn and Facebook accounts.

It is a very long story but I will cut it short. Someone keeps hacking them and deleting the accounts.

I have not been able to add the friend and connection requests that come in and wanted to be sure to let you know.

I am not ignoring you.

The same problem has come up with my email accounts. There are three addresses for Gene Lambert or Eunice

Imogene Lambert, and two for Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Apologies are in order and it is being worked on as I write. We think we know who it is doing it.

Please know how important you are to me and I will bring you on to the accounts as soon as I am able.

In the meantime, my cell phone has all the other numbers forwarded to it.

That number again is 480-228-6569 if you have questions, need assistance, or just

want to visit.

I would love to hear from you.

Thank you each and every day for the trust you put in me.

Personal Regards,

Gene Lambert
(Eunice Imogene Lambert)
Your District 5 Legislator
Citizen Potawatomi Nation



District 6 - Rande K. Payne

Bozho nikanek,
(Hello my friends)

I want to begin this month's column thanking the hundreds of CPN employees who helped make this year's Family Reunion Festival a great and memorable event for everyone in attendance. I would also like to congratulate this year's group of PLP students on their selection to the program and thank them for their commitment to learn from all the program has to offer.

Rather than talk about Festival events I would like to give you an outsider's view, perhaps somewhat narrow, of local Shawnee politics observed during my short visit for the Family Reunion Festival. For those that do not know, Shawnee's local election cycle concluded with voters casting their ballots on June 28.

It's no secret that we have been under attack from the State of Oklahoma in their attempt to force CPN to collect sales tax for them. One of the state's most recent strategies to extort money from us was to shut down the sale of alcoholic beverages at our casinos by holding our liquor license hostage. By the terms in our gaming compact with the state, the sales tax and liquor license issues went to arbitration. In short, the arbitrator ruled in our favor on both issues. However, we were left with an enormous amount of unrecoverable legal fees.

In the State of Oklahoma's ongoing assault on CPN's self-determination, self-governance and sovereignty, the state has launched another attack. This time it is on Pottawatomie County Rural Water District 3's ability to supply much needed water to those who would otherwise be underserved. The tribe owns the assets and infrastructure of the water district, but it is a state agency, like all other rural water districts. The state's water resources board and county commissioners confirmed this fact

more than a decade ago when CPN took over paying the costs for the water district's operations. This latest hostility toward our tribe is in its infancy. I'm hopeful we will prevail, but again, even if we do, it will have a cost.

In my opinion, this is a fine example of government overreach fueled by personal vendettas, negative emotions and maybe even racism. How could anyone in their right mind be so driven to move the citizens of Pottawatomie County back 40 years economically? We have proved over and over again that we are generous to the community as a whole in a multitude of ways, by providing good jobs for the citizens of the community that might otherwise find themselves unemployed or even be forced to live somewhere else. This is way beyond bad politics. This is sinister!

As with much of our media today, the news is slanted and reported in favor of the leanings of those in control. In just the short time I was in Oklahoma, I came across several news articles that portrayed CPN as the ag-

gressor because of our support of candidates opposing the current regime running the City of Shawnee. We are being labeled as "rich and powerful," which I'm guessing is written to imply "big and evil" and further accusations of CPN trying to take over the City of Shawnee. This couldn't be further from the truth. Yes, we have managed our money well, grown and diversified our enterprises to very respectable levels of success and shared the wealth with the community. All we have ever wanted was to be left alone and be separated, de-annexed, from the City of Shawnee. We are completely self-reliant. Yet some politicians in the City of Shawnee continue to demand we pay for services *they do not provide*. Space is too short here to go into all the details but it makes my blood boil!

We didn't start any of these battles. We have, once again as Native Americans, been forced to defend and protect our God given rights and those of our children, grandchildren and generations yet to come. I deeply appreciate the hard work and dedication

of Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett, Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, Secretary-Treasurer D. Wayne Trousdale, tribal attorneys Greg Quinlan and George Wright and our Public Information Department of Jennifer Bell and John VanPool.

No matter how any of this turns out, I am confident that future generations will be able to look back to this time and be proud of who our leaders were and what they did for them.

Wisdom from the Word: "The good man wins his case by careful argument; the evil-minded only wants to fight." Proverbs 13:2

Migwetch!

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Mnedo Gabo
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Hownikan

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Bozho nikanek,
(Hello friends)

As July came to a close, the Nation had the honor of hosting the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations once again in Shawnee. The Gathering gives the nine Potawatomi tribes from the United States and Canada the chance to get together and share our common history and to discuss our future.

District 7 - Mark Johnson

Many of the activities held during the Family Festival in June also take place at Gathering. But at the Gathering, tribal governments have a chance to meet and discuss issues that are ongoing in Indian County. Cultural classes are also held, along with a well attended language conference.

I know it is not possible for all to attend the gatherings that happen in Shawnee, hopefully you can make the trip sometime. You will make memories that will last a lifetime. In the meantime, I thought I would point out some of the opportunities that are available in California in August that you may want to visit. Even though these are not Potawatomi events, they can be well worth spend-

ing some time at. No matter what Native American tribe you may come from, we all have somewhat of a common history worth sharing.

August 12 to 14, 2016
22nd Annual Sacramento Contest Pow Wow
Where: 715 Broadway, Sacramento, CA
Contact: 916-804-7326
wailaki10@comcast.net

August 12 - 14, 2016
VIC 20th Annual Pow Wow
Where: Vallejo Waterfront 298 Mare Island Way, Vallejo, CA
[facebook.com/events/1686771834929412/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1686771834929412/)

August 13 - 14, 2016
16th Annual Robert Canada Friendship Pow Wow
Where: Furgeson Elementa-

ry School:
22215 Elaine Street,
Hawaiian Gardens, CA
Contact: 562-420-2641
<http://www.hgcity.org/>

August 26 - 28, 2016
Honoring Traditions 9th Annual Pow Wow
Where: Pala Band of Mission Indians Cupa Cultural Center: 10779 Highway 76, Pala, CA
Contact: 760-891-3590
[facebook.com/palapw](https://www.facebook.com/palapw)
www.palatribes.com/

Once again, I would like to say what an honor it is to serve you as your District 7 representative. As always give me a call and I will be happy to work with you on any questions you may have, or provide you with additional information you may need

to access tribal benefits that you are entitled to. Please also take the time to give me a call or send me an email with your contact information so that I can keep you informed of the happenings within the Nation and district.

Migwetch / Thank You,
Mark Johnson / *Wisk Mtek*
(Strong as a Tree)
Representative, District 7
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Bozho District 8,

The Family Festival was a huge success this year, and my family, the Juneau(s), were one of those specifically honored. With matching family t-shirts, we fielded a hand games team that went a few rounds in the competition before being defeated. Characteristically, rounding the Juneaus up for pictures was like herding cats, but eventually we had a photo taken of most of us, wearing regalia before the Grand En-

District 8 - Dave Carney

try on Saturday night. Special thanks to cousin Mark Goodson of Texas for leading the family into the arena.

Every time I come to the Nation I am impressed with the development of infrastructure and businesses. Diversification of our business lines will be the key to our long term success as well as making the surrounding communities a better place to live. During Festival weekend, we made a special visit to FireLake Express Grocery in McLoud. It's my understanding that there had not been a grocery store in the area since 1961, and now they have a beautiful, state-of-the-art resource to buy groceries and fuel. This is an impressive example of how the Nation and our neighbors can prosper together.



The Juneau family.

Shortly after returning home, we celebrated the Fourth of July by making the annual pilgrimage to the Nisqually Indian Tribe's "boomtown" fireworks stands near Yelm, Washington. After wheeling and dealing to get the most (almost) legal fireworks, I treated myself to some fry bread from a food truck.

Maybe I'm biased, but the CPN sure does it better. For the initiated, there is a fry bread making contest at the Family Festival and free fry bread available at various times throughout the weekend. At the Nation, the toppings offered are generally honey, syrup and powdered sugar. At the Washington

tribe, the toppings were butter and jam. Oklahoma fry-bread is the best!

RSVPs are trickling in for the August 6 evening dinner meeting in Spokane, Washington. It should be a fun and informative evening. If you are going to be in the area, please RSVP as soon as possible. Please email or call.

As I'm sure you have heard many times, legislators are not given contact information from tribal rolls. Please reach out to me so you can be on my mailing list for email updates.

Best Regards,

Dave Carney/Kagasghi
dcarney@potawatomi.org
360-259-4027



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Michael Patrick Mimnaugh



Michael Patrick Mimnaugh, age 43, of Minnie, Kentucky, died May 23, 2016 in Wheelwright, Kentucky. The son of Phillip and Diane Allen Mimnaugh, he was retired from the Chicago Board of Trade.

Mr. Mimnaugh is survived by his wife: Kimberly Rae Mimnaugh; sons: Michael Joseph Cullen Mimnaugh, Shawn William Phillip Mimnaugh; daughters: Lillian Rae Mimnaugh, Kaitlynn Abigail Mimnaugh; brother: Phillip Mimnaugh; sisters: Kelly Lopez, Megan Eyermann; mother-in-law: Eristine Shelton; father-in-law: Bruce Shelton; brothers-in-law: Ken Hamilton, Steven Hamilton, Joby Blackburn.

Funeral service was held on May 28, 2016 at the First Baptist Church in McDowell, Kentucky. Burial followed in the Lucy Hall Cemetery, McDowell.

Condolences may be made at www.hallfuneralservice.com

Paul E. Courington Jr.



Paul E. Courington Jr. of Wadsworth passed away on May 30, 2016. He was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on Nov. 14, 1934 and spent his early years in Texas and Oklahoma. He moved to Illinois in 1955. Paul married Barbara Sponenburg in 1958 and had four children. Paul graduated from high school in Noble, Oklahoma and attended College of Lake County and graduated from Lake Forest School of Management. Paul worked at Abbott Laboratories where he met many fine people. He was a little league coach and umpire. He also was a junior achievement advisor and worked with the Boy Scouts.

Paul is survived by his wife: Barbara; sons: Harry and John; daughter: Melonie (Mark); grandchildren: John Paul, Robin, Shawn (Sarah), Lisa (Troy), Katie (Carl), and Jeff;

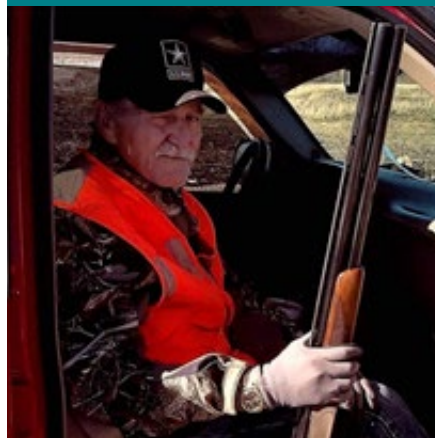
great-grandchildren: Alexis, Peyton, Neven, Corbin, Lane, Amelia, Genevieve, and Piper; special friends: Clyde and Jean; a special family: the Spillers; Becky (his cat); many nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

Proceeded in death by precious daughter: Michelle; his father: Paul; mother: Edna; his brother: Ernest; sister: Cecile; a baby sister; and daughter-in-law: Sheryl.

Paul enjoyed spending time with his family, traveling, going to casinos and being outside riding on his John Deere tractor. One of his mottos were "You have to have dreams, so make sure the dream is big." Paul was a very detailed person when it came to statistical information and also remembered dates for everything. He will be missed greatly for his personality and kind heart.

Funeral services were private.

Robert E. Spalding Sr.



Robert E. Spalding Sr. passed away on March 27, 2016. He was 73 years old.

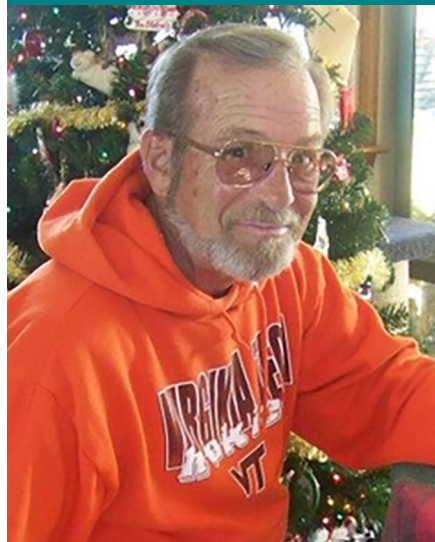
He was an Army veteran serving in Vietnam and was honorably discharged. He was a boilermaker and a Teamster. He was very proud of his Native American heritage.

Robert was preceded in death by his wife: Dottie Sue.

He is survived by his children: Robert E. Spalding Jr., David D. Spalding, Mary A. Spalding; grandchildren: Nick Spalding, Jake Spalding, Alan Lockrey, Evan Spalding, Justin Lockrey, Cheyenne Spalding, Haley Lockrey; great-grandchildren: Lorelei and Cayden Spalding.

He meant the world to all of his family. He will be deeply missed and in our hearts forever until we meet again.

Henry Berton Richard Jr.



Nov. 10, 1942 - April 25, 2016

Henry was born in Los Angeles, California and then spent most of his life

in Spokane, Washington. After graduating from high school in 1961, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy to serve in the Vietnam War. After four years of service, he attended Eastern Washington University to study geology.

In 1992, he became a member of the Potawatomi tribe. In 2008, he moved from Spokane to Christiansburg, Virginia with his mother and younger sister.

He will always be remembered by his witty jokes, endless sneezes, and affection for his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Margaret and Henry Richard.

Survivors include: sister and brother-in-law, Ann and Jerry Foster of Radford, Virginia; sister and brother-in-law, Debbie and Albert Slater of Roanoke, Virginia; numerous nieces, nephews and many other relatives.

A Funeral Prayer

Hau ndenwémagnek
Ho my relatives

Ébyé yak shote gnom
We have come here today

Éwi nesh myé yak ode wdenwéma
To lay our brother to rest

Ngom she épam sét ode
Today he walks

Ga wje zhyé wat gi gambojek
Among those who have passed on

I yé i ébgednoyak ode ngemwen
That is why we offer this song

Émno shketot wa je zhyat ibe shpemsegok
That his journey will go well where he goes above

Iw énaj mojan
That's all I have to say

A Potawatomi prayer for a specific loved one who has walked on. By Don Perrot



Cynthia Marie Rhodes



Cynthia Marie Rhodes, 62, of Las Cruces, New Mexico passed away June 2, 2016 in College Station, Texas. Cyndi was born in Summit, New Jersey to Eddie and Reba Faye Shewmaker on July 22, 1953. She graduated Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School in 1971.

Cyndi was a kind, gentle, loving soul who enjoyed traveling, cooking, and baking treats for her granddaughter. She loved the outdoors, animals, music, sunsets, objects of beauty and most of all her beloved family and friends.

Cyndi is survived by her son: Avery Rhodes; daughter: Adrienne Rhodes; beloved granddaughter: Jadyne Rhodes; parents: Eddie and Reba Faye Shewmaker of Paragould, Arkansas; brother: Jim Shewmaker; sisters: Ann Turnbull, Jane Neu, and Mary Bachman; as well as multiple nieces and nephews. Cyndi is preceded in death by her daughter: Softness Rhodes; and nephew: Jacob Neu.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Cyndi's name to the Brazos Valley Hospice, a non-profit organization, whose support was invaluable during this time. www.hospicebrazosvalley.org/donate.html
502 W. 26th Street
Bryan, Texas 77803
(979) 821-2266

Joe Allen Lewis



Joe Allen Lewis, Jr., 55, former Shawnee, Oklahoma resident, died of illness complications in his home in Bald Knob, Arkansas on Sunday, May 1, 2016.

Joe was born in Ardmore, Oklahoma on Nov. 22, 1960 to Joe and Cecilia Pensoneau Lewis. He graduated from Conway High School in 1979 and attended vocational welding school and later graduated from Conway Beauty School. Joe enjoyed people and his job as a stylist gave him great

pleasure as did his CPN heritage. Joe is preceded in death by his mother: Cecilia Pensoneau Lewis.

Survivors include his father: Joe Lewis, Sr. of Ardmore; sister: Kim (Brent) Wilson of Searcy, Arkansas; brother: Chris (Nikki) Lewis of Batesville, Arkansas; maternal grandmother: Dorothy Cleo Pensoneau of Searcy; nieces and nephews: Anna (Buddy) Wilson Ladd and Daniel (Tawny) Wilson of Nashville, Tennessee, Nathan Wilson of Searcy, and Skeet and Sadie Lewis of Mountain View, Arkansas; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Funeral services were held on May 3, 2016 at Resthaven Funeral Home in Shawnee with burial following.

James Robert Sander



James Robert "Jim Bob" Sander, 37, of Seiling, Oklahoma tragically passed from this life too soon on June 4, 2016.

Jim Bob was born on June 6, 1978 to Fred and Rebecca Sander in Okeene, Oklahoma. He was raised and educated in the Seiling area, graduating with the Class of 1997. He then attended college earning an Associate's Degree in Business from Northern Oklahoma College Gateway at Stillwater. He worked several jobs in the oilfield industry, as well as doing landscaping on the side.

Jim Bob was a sports fanatic who closely followed the OSU Cowboys, the Washington Redskins and the Oklahoma City Thunder. He loved the outdoors, spending much of his free time bow hunting and fishing. His favorite fishing hole was along the North Canadian River, and he also enjoyed his Alaskan trips. Jim

Bob had a huge heart, especially for his son Jacoby, who he called his "Buddy Boy."

He was preceded in death by his grandmother: Virginia Sander and substitute grandpa: Bill McNeill.

Jim Bob is survived by his parents: Fred and Rebecca Sander; his precious son: Jacoby Sander and mother Debbie; sister: Sarah Sander and her children Gabriel and Avery Garrison; brother: Chism Sander wife Heather; grandmother: Anna Teal; aunt and uncles: Marilyn and Dick Schroder, Jim and Elaine Sander, Bob and Jan Sander, Holly and Gary Gaylord, Bill and Tammy Stillwell, and Rose Teal; and his "Mama Red" Linda Redinger; as well numerous cousins, other relatives, and friends.

Memorial Services were held on June 7, 2016 at the First Christian Church in Seiling with Chism Sander, Pastor Dennis Adair, and Pastor Shane Sander officiating. Maverick Gose, Matt Rogers, Chad Clayton, Sam Navarre, Darrin Redinger, Coach Bruce Hendrickson and Clay Sander were honorary pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Redinger Funeral Home, Box 236, Seiling, OK 73663 to help meet the needs of Jim's son, Jacoby Sander.

Johnnie Ruth (Evans) Moore



Johnnie Ruth (Evans) Moore, of Choctaw, Oklahoma was born April 17, 1938 and passed away May 2, 2016, from bladder cancer.

Johnnie was the only child born to Virgil and Helen (Anderson) Evans;

niece of Jesse & Juanita (Gerber) Anderson and Leonard and Ellen (Lundy) Anderson; granddaughter of George W. and Mary (Cannaday) Anderson; and great-granddaughter of Peter and Julia (Hardin) Anderson. Her formative years were mostly spent living on the Anderson family Indian land allotment in Harrah, Oklahoma surrounded by her four cousins: Billie Jean (later Rau), Donnie, Freddie, and Robbie Anderson. She became the step-daughter of Robert J. Wolfe in 1951.

Johnnie graduated from Choctaw High School in 1956 and from the University of Oklahoma in 1960 with a degree in Business Management. She wed Joe R. Moore of Muskogee, Oklahoma on June 12, 1960 and gave birth to her only child, Julie (Moore) Williams on Aug. 8, 1962.

Johnnie was employed by the Federal Aviation Administration for 33 years and had been enjoying retirement since 1993. She was a faithful fan of OU Sooners football and basketball.

Johnnie will be missed by many but always remembered as a lovely and loving daughter, wife, mother, aunt, cousin and friend.

She was survived by her husband: Joe of the home; daughter: Julie and son-in-law Mark Williams of Choctaw; grandchildren: Matthew Williams and wife Jenny, Lyndi (Williams) Owens and husband Rob; great-grandchildren: Mason, Matthew, Micah Williams, London and Lylla Owens; and many other family and friends.

A memorial service was held on May 7, 2016 at Hibbs Funeral Home in Choctaw.

"A Mother is she who can take the place of all others, but whose place no one else can take." Author Unknown.

Submitting obituaries

To submit an obituary, please send a word document with **no more than 300 words**, a 300dpi photo and a contact phone number to hownikan@potawatomi.org.

CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

The \$2,000 CPN Burial Assistance Fund is automatically available to all enrolled CPN members. You may fill out a burial assistance fund form if you would like for us to keep it on file in case of any change in resolutions.

Please note: Once a CPN Tribal member has passed, the Tribal Rolls office must

be notified in order for CPN to provide burial funding. Information and instructions for the burial process will be sent to the next of kin and will be discussed then.

For more information please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or email CClark@Potawatomi.org.